



MEDIA RELEASE

Daylight Savings Time – Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

SANTA BARBARA, CA – March 7, 2012

It's that time of year again! Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 11, 2012. The Santa Barbara City Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to remind all residents to change the batteries in all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors at the same time you set your clocks ahead one hour.

In addition to changing the batteries, take a few moments to ensure that all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in your residence are fully functional and free from dust. Follow manufacturer's recommended cleaning and maintenance practices for your specific detectors. Simple maintenance usually involves a thorough vacuuming of the detector. It is also a good time to check the contents of your disaster kit.

Don't forget to also check the dates of manufacture on each smoke and carbon monoxide detector in your home. Most manufacturers recommend that smoke alarms should be changed every ten years and carbon monoxide detectors should be changed every five years. Sensing elements in these units have a life span, and tend to become less responsive as they become older. Note, carbon monoxide detector is required by law in every home.

For more information on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detector installation, uses, and maintenance, please refer to the United States Fire Administration website at www.usfa.fema.gov, the National Fire Protection Association at www.nfpa.org, or contact the Santa Barbara City Fire Department at 805-965-5254. .

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